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## REVIEWS AND NOTES.

## NOTE.

A Division of Statistical Research was organized in the New York City Health Department within the Bureau of Records on June 1, 1915. The creation of such a division has long been contemplated by the Department and repeatedly recommended by special committees.

It is hoped that the new division will justify its existence from the start and thus secure a reasonable amount of support in the next budget. The new division hopes to take over the statistical work of the different bureaus of the department and in this way to secure a saving of labor that can be devoted to the development of the department's statistics. The division will then be able to supply the bureaus of the department with scientific data to guide them in their different fields of health work.

The new division has been organized entirely without additional cost to the city by detailing qualified workers from within the department. Shirley W. Wynne, M.D., Assistant Registrar, Manhattan, has been designated Chief of the new division.

L. I. D.

## STATISTICS OF SUICIDE IN SPAIN AND SAXONY.

Under the caption, "Zur Statistik des Selbstmords," the *Deutsches Statistisches Zentralblatt*\* discusses recent publications on suicide statistics in Spain and in the Kingdom of Saxony.

Spanish suicide statistics, in spite of their detail of presentation, have hitherto obtained but little notice. They were formerly grouped with the general statistics of mortality, but were made the subject of special enumeration by a royal decree of September 8, 1906. As suicide still entails certain legal consequences in Spain, the lower courts were entrusted with the filling out of a questionnaire for every suicide and attempted suicide, and were instructed to send these questionnaires, at the end of every quarter, to the Geographical and Statistical Institute for compilation. These forms do not contain the names of suicides. They record nationality, home, temporary or permanent character of stay in locality, literacy, manner of committing suicide (9 titles), and cause of suicide (13 titles).

The first comprehensive compilation for Spain has appeared under the title, "Estadística de Suicidio en España" (Madrid, 1913) for 1906-1911. It analyzes the material by years, provinces and large cities, age, conjugal condition, time of suicide, etc. Of course the criminal nature of the act in Spain is certain to have made the figures too low. The tables are accompanied by comparisons with other European countries. It appears that, during the period of observation, there were 74 suicides and attempted

\* Vol. II, No. 1. Leipzig, January, 1915.